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Sessional Committee II

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT 1986-1990: UNCTAD'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL INPUT INTO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S FINAL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION IN 1991

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of Committee II

The Trade and Development Board,

Recalling its decision 372 (XXXVI) of 13 October 1989;

Having undertaken its final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) 1986-1990 pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 43/27 of 18 November 1988, and 45/178A of 14 December 1990,

Noting with appreciation the contribution of UNCTAD, and also with appreciation, funds provided by UNDP and other donors, in the implementation of the UN-PAAERD, notably the expansion of its technical assistance programmes for African countries,

Further noting, with appreciation the documentation prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat in this process, especially documents TD/B/1280 and TD/B/1280/Add.1 as well as TD/B/1279,

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Acknowledging that UN-PAAERD helped mobilize both African countries and the international community in the pursuit of policies and actions for Africa's economic recovery and development,

Recognizing Africa's primary responsibility for formulating and implementing effective economic and social policies towards achieving the objectives of UN-PAAERD,

Reaffirming the international community's commitment to provide the necessary support for Africa's efforts towards economic recovery and development based on mutually reinforcing action and partnership,

Noting with satisfaction the courageous and persistent efforts exerted by most African countries in adopting and implementing structural adjustment programmes and reform policies, inspite of their social costs,

Reaffirming the continuing need in Africa for human resource mobilization and development, institutional capacity building, as well as encouraging the role and participation of women and youth, particularly those living in the rural areas, in the development process,

Noting with concern the stagnation in international resource flows to Africa in real terms, the decline in foreign direct investment, and the continued depressed market conditions for Africa's major export commodities,

Noting that a number of international debt initiatives have been taken, however, noting also with concern that the debt burden remains a major impediment to recovery and development in Africa,

Bearing in mind problems of environmental degradation and recurring natural disasters in many parts of the continent,

Reaffirming the importance of sub-regional and regional integration as well as economic and technical co-operation in the process of African recovery and development,

Recognizing that a four-year period is a short span for dealing with economic recovery and transformation in Africa and that the attainment of the objectives of UN-PAAERD require long term planning, effective economic policies, and enhanced international support,

1. Reaffirms the primary responsibility of African countries for their economic recovery and development in an environment which offers equal opportunities to all people, both, men and women, to participate fully in the developmental process;

2. Commends African countries which are undertaking courageous efforts to implement necessary reforms and structural adjustment measures; and urges them to persist with reform policies;

3. Urges, that structural adjustment policies supported by the international financial institutions should take into account longer term developmental objectives and seek to ensure a positive social impact while securing basic needs such as nutrition, health, education and infrastructure;

4. Calls upon African countries in the implementation of the structural adjustment and reform programmes, including those in partnership with international institutions and individual donors, to take into account their environmental and overall developmental objectives, as well as technological and financial needs;

5. Reaffirms the continuing commitment of the international community to support the efforts and policies of African countries in the pursuit of the objectives of the UN-PAAERD;

6. Urges the international community to pursue its efforts to provide additional resource support for the objectives of the Programme in the future and in particular, to provide additional resource flows, especially ODA in real terms and to encourage the increased flow of foreign direct investment into Africa. Appropriate measures should continue to be intensified by African countries to provide an enabling environment for increased and productive foreign direct investment;

7. Stresses the need, in accordance with Trade and Development Board resolution 388 (XXXVII), for continuing and concerted efforts in the context of international debt initiatives towards comprehensive and effective debt relief measures for African countries;

8. Calls upon all countries, especially major trading partners, to improve access of Africa's commodity exports to their markets especially in their semi-processed and processed forms;

9. Urges the international community to continue to strengthen its support for Africa's diversification efforts;

10. Notes with satisfaction the efforts undertaken by African countries to achieve sub-regional and regional integration and economic and technical co-operation; and calls upon the international community to support these efforts;

11. Emphasizes that any assessment of UN-PAAERD and related statistics, information and studies should cover the whole of developing Africa;

12. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for the arrangements made within the secretariat and the effective efforts made to enhance UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (1986-1990);

13. Requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to continue, within his mandate, his efforts to provide assistance to African countries including continued analysis and research relating to problems of interest to Africa as well as technical co-operation programmes in Africa and to ensure that UNCTAD's needs appraisal missions will cover all regions of Africa;

14. Requests also the international community, especially donor countries and institutions to provide additional voluntary resource support for UNCTAD's technical and other programmes of assistance for Africa;

15. Recommends to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly, taking into account the foregoing, to consider the continuation of the African and international efforts within the objectives defined in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (1986-1990).